

etc., were enabled to come by a better state, not
 to speak of
 those who are devoted to-him. So long a
 person labours
 under the delusion of worshipping separate
 Godheads such
 as Brahma, Vrihaspati, or such and such holy
 sages, as long
 as he is not favoured with the knowledge of
 worshipping
 the one and universal Hari.

CHAPTER CCXLI.

SUTA said :—O Shaunaka, now I shall narrate the
 hymn to
 Narasinha, as composed by Shiva. The Matrikas
 of yore
 addressed the blissful one (Shankara) as follows :
 —we shall
 devour, O lord, all the demons and men, if you
 so permit
 us. The universe is from thee, O lord.

SHANKARA said :—O you goddesses, I think it is
 rather
 incumbent on you to preserve the inmates of
 the universe:
 banish, O goddesses, these cruel intentions from
 your minds.

SUTA said :—Even thus being addressed by
 Shankara,
 the ferocious Matrikas paid no heed to his
 counsels and
 began to devour the universe with all its inmates,
 both mobile
 and immobile. The god Shiva meditated upon the
 form of
 Nrisinha while the Matrikas were engaged in
 devouring
 the universe. The endless and originless Shiva
 contemplated a form which inspired terror in the
 hearts of all
 creatures. The manes on his neck stood up
 erect on their
 ends. His dreadful teeth were illuminated
 with the lurid

light of his lightning-tongue, which fearfully
lolloped out. His
was a voice which resembled the roar of the
seven oceans,
agitated by the tornado of universal dissolution.
He pulled
aside the corners of his lips with the tips of his
finger-nails,
which were hard as Uunder-bolts. His eyes
had a glow,
which resembled that of the summits of the
mount Mem